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SUBJECT: Timing of Volta River Project.

As of possible interest to the Department there is set forth below a tentative estimate of the timing, or "phasing" of the Volta River Project. Commander Robert G. A. JACKSON, head of the Volta River Preparatory Commission, prepared the following timetable during August, 1953, and it represents his current thinking about the sequence and timing of the various aspects of the Project.

(a) By the end of 1953 a decision about tenders for the port of Tema.

(b) By about April or May, 1954, general agreement that the Volta Project is technically feasible and it is worth while going out to tender to ascertain if any contractor in the world would build the power project for a figure approximating that estimated by the consulting engineers. At this time it could be decided whether the World Bank should be invited to survey the project with a view to making a loan to the Volta River Authority later on if requested to do so.

(c) By June, 1954, work on Tema to have started.

(d) By about November, 1954, consideration by the consulting engineers of any tenders received for construction of the power project.

(e) End of 1954, report from the consulting engineers on those tenders which would be most satisfactory for the construction of the power project. During the same period the Preparatory Commission could finish its work in analysing the possible impact of the project on the national economy as a whole. (This is when Professors Lewis of Manchester University and Kahn of Cambridge might be most useful.

(f) First quarter of 1955, negotiation between the principals whether the scheme should proceed or not, and if agreement is reached, action to draw up the main headings of a master agreement as called for by the White Paper on the Volta Project.

(g) Rest of 1955 to be regarded as a "Year of Grace". This period will almost certainly be required for completing the master agreement, drawing up a statute for the Volta River Authority, introducing

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appropriate legislation, conducting negotiations with the World Bank (if necessary) and making preliminary arrangements in the Gold Coast for the provision of housing, and the appointment of key staff. There is general agreement here that such a "Year of Grace" would be essential to the smooth initiation of the scheme.

(h) 1st January, 1956, possible date for starting construction on the Volta Project. (This date would synchronise conveniently with the next development programme for the Gold Coast).

(i) By 30th June, 1956, port of Tema available on a small scale to assist the Volta Project if required (two ships).

(j) Some time in 1957, preparation of housing for workers required for smelter project.

(k) 1958 (depending on scientific research) start of work on the smelter and the building of new railway lines. First stage of Tema should be completed by this date, if all goes well (four ships).

(l) 1961/1962, possible date of completion of power project and of railways and smelter.

William E. Cole
American Consul

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